

**H-2500 YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE****H-2510 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act allows Louisiana to offer Medicaid to youth aging out of foster care and leaving state custody. This includes individuals who have aged out of foster care in other states and now reside in Louisiana. For the purposes of this program, the term “youth” means an individual who is under 21 years of age and who, on the individual’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, was in foster care under the responsibility of the state. This program covers youth who reach age 18 on or after March 1, 2009 and coverage continues up to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**Note:**

Effective January 1, 2014, youth who age out of foster care that were enrolled in Medicaid at the time of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are to be certified in the Former Foster Care Children group (Refer to [H-3100](#)). Eligibility in Former Foster Care Children shall be considered prior to Youth Aging Out of Foster Care.

For detailed information regarding specific foster care category/type cases that are eligible, see [Eligibility Determinations \(non LTC\)](#) in the Eligibility Administrative Procedures Manual.

No application is required for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Program. There is no income or asset test for this program and the youth can have other insurance and remain eligible.

If eligibility is lost due to moving out of state, a youth may be recertified in the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Program if Louisiana residency is re-established prior to turning age 21.

**H-2510.1 Coverage**

Youth Aging Out of Foster Care are eligible for the full range of Medicaid covered services.

**H-2520 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS**

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

**H-2520.1 Determine Assistance\*\* Unit**

The assistance\*\* unit consists of the youth that has aged out of foster care and no longer in state custody.

**H-2520.2 Establish Categorical Requirement**

Establish that the applicant/enrollee:

- is at least age 18, but under age 21
- currently lives in Louisiana, and
- was a child in foster care in \*\* any state's custody upon obtaining age 18 on or after March 1, 2009. Enrollment in Medicaid upon obtaining age 18 is not a requirement of eligibility for the program.

**H-2520.3 Establish Non-financial Eligibility**

Verify eligibility for the youth with regard to the following factors:

- Age, MAGI-Related I-100
- Assignment of Third Party Rights I-200
- Citizenship/Alien Status I-300
- Enumeration I-600
- Residence I-1900

**H-2520.4 Establish Need**

- A. There is no resource test in determining eligibility.
- B. There is no income test in determining eligibility.
- C. Establish eligibility in Foster Care at time of 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**H-2520.5 Eligibility Decision**

Evaluate all eligibility requirements to determine if the youth is eligible.

**H-2520.6 Certification Period**

The certification period may be effective no earlier than three months prior to the application date provided the individual is otherwise eligible. The months of retroactive coverage are not included in the 12 month certification period . The 12 month certification period begins with the month of application.

Retroactive medical eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to H-1800, Retroactive Medical Eligibility.

**Note:**

Prior to closure of the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, eligibility in other programs must be explored.

**H-2520.7 Notice of Decision**

An eligibility decision notice shall be sent to the applicant.